



Co-Occurring Joint Action Council (COJAC)



Meeting Minutes October 22, 2008

Participants

Workgroup Co-Chair: Cheryl Trenwith (CADPAAC) and Marvin Southard (CMHDA)

Workgroup Members: Marjorie McKisson (ADP), Dave Neilsen (ADP), Jim O'Connell (SMRS), Victor Kogler (ADPI), Elizabeth Stanley-Salazar (Phoenix House), Mary Hale (CMHDA), Madelyn Schlaepfer (CADPAAC), Director Dr. Stephen Mayberg (DMH), Carol Wilkins (CSH), Jerry Wengerd (CMHDA), and Sandra Naylor Goodwin (CiMH)

Other COJAC Staff: Ron Bettencourt (DMH), Alice Trujillo (ADP), Kevin Furey (ADP), Darien De Lu (ADP), Elaine Bush (DMH), and Alice Washington (CiMH)

Guests: David Pating (MHSAOC) and Sean Tracy (DMH)

Welcome and Introductions

Albert Senella's staff, Ken Bachrach of Tarzana Treatment Centers, welcomed the COJAC Workgroup.

Cheryl Trenwith and Dr. Marvin Southard welcomed the COJAC Workgroup and they opened the meeting at 10:15 am.

Approval of July 31, 2008 Minutes & Confirmation of Decisions from July 31, 2008 Meeting

Correction to July 31, 2008 minutes

Ron Bettencourt asked that the minutes reflect that he is DMH staff for the COJAC Workgroup.

1. Reaffirm Decisions from July 31, 2008 Meeting

- a. Posting of COJAC Screening Tool to COJAC website
 - i. The COJAC Workgroup members **agreed** to the posting of the COJAC Screening Tool to the COJAC website.
- b. Posting of Funding Matrix to COJAC website
 - i. The COAJC Workgroup members **agreed** to the posting of the Funding Matrix to the COJAC website with the acknowledgement that it is a living document and will need updates. Other users should be informed about updates so they can change their website postings, too.

- c. *Recognition* of DDCAT for usefulness in assessing COD treatment capability and approval for linking the DDCAT tool and related documents to the COJAC website
 - i. The COJAC Workgroup members **agreed** to post the DDCAT onto the COJAC website with a note--use this tool and resource as "Information Only."

Agenda & 2009 Meeting Schedule

The agenda for the October 22, 2008 was approved with no revisions.

The 2009 COJAC Workgroup Meeting Schedule was distributed and approved. The Southern California meeting locations are still pending. (See schedule at the end of these minutes.)

Recommendations & Priorities

Elizabeth Stanley-Salazar suggested that the COJAC Workgroup review and include the legislative platform from Assembly Member Jim Beall in their priorities. How can the Workgroup members make connections with his work?

MHSOAC COD Workgroup Recommendations

Dr. David Pating presented information from the "*Mental Health Services Oversight and Accountability Commission Report on Co-Occurring Disorders: Transforming the Mental Health System through Integration. Revision 5.0. 10/14/2008.*"

Access the report using:

<http://www.dmh.ca.gov/MHSOAC/docs/Meetings/2008/Oct/23/Tab5CODReport101608.pdf>

Dr. Pating summarized the report by highlighting the themes. MHSA is co-occurring focused and we want to elevate these issues. The report provides a global overview of integrated services, which includes co-occurring disorders. COD can be represented in the MHSA Integrated Plan, which allows all MHSA and other components of the mental health system to work well together as an integrated system.

Dr. Pating noted Goal 3 of the report, which highlights the collaboration with the Departments of Mental Health and Alcohol and Drug Programs in order to support integrated treatment as outlined in the COJAC "One Person, One Team, One Plan" work plan. The MHSOAC would like to review the updated State Action Plan (SAP) produced by the COJAC Workgroup and Subcommittees. Dr. Pating suggested that the SAP should have the five essential elements of the MHSA, which are:

- Wellness Focus
- Cultural Competence
- Community Collaboration
- Client and Family Driven
- Integrated Service Experience

Dr. Pating stated that the MHSA Innovation Guidelines are coming out soon. The Innovation Guidelines are about new items that lead to learning which include demonstration projects developed by and for communities.

He also feels the COJAC Screening Tool is ready for use. Additionally, the Workgroup members' suggestions:

- Use the screener with the MHSA PEI because of the screener's trauma focus,
- Use with MHSA's Workforce Education and Training program to support COD trainings and the development of COD capabilities, and
- Incorporate these suggested usages by using the new CiMH/ADPI COD TA Center.

Broader Feedback

Dr. Pating and the Workgroup members discussed other important issues:

Partnerships Form partnerships across agencies, include appropriate representation on the COJAC Workgroup so as to promote system collaborations and integration. Partnerships should not be funding-source-driven. Focus should be "on the ground" – real people, real problems, local solutions (not years of policy discussions!). Integration is of *services*, not of *systems*. The screening tool can help with that.

Practice Implement the COJAC Screening Tool; if the MHSA required counties to report screening results, that would impel use of a/the screener at the county level. Such data could allow better statistics on COD, which we don't have at all right now. Implement standards of practice.

Regulations Clarify policies for standards of care.

NORA, if approved by voters, will bring new COD issues.

Other groups have set priorities

There are places of commonalties within the priorities in the listed groups' reports. The reports/groups listed in the agenda:

- ✓ MHSOAC COD Workgroup
- ✓ Little Hoover COD recommendations
- ✓ CADPAAC COD Committee Priorities

Updates from the Departments

Updates from the Department of Alcohol and Drug Programs, Dave Neilsen, Deputy Director

Dave Neilsen stated that the Department continues to address priorities as outlined by Director Renee Zito at the July 31, 2008, meeting:

- Helping to move standards of care conversation forward with COJAC Workgroup,
- Improving gender specific services for women,
- Increasing TAY services to address needs,
- Improving workforce to provide needed services, which include counselor certification to basic core treatment standards, and
- Improved access and coordination with providing services to veterans (Carmen Delgado helping with these projects.).

Other discussions with ADP: *COJAC Screening Tool*

After brief conversations regarding recent events involving the screening tool, ADP took the lead on returning to the original COJAC- and Department-approved screener wording for the validation study.

Updates from Department of Mental Health, Dr. Stephen Mayberg, Director

Director Dr. Mayberg had no updates other than what Dr. Pating reported from the MHSOAC. Dr. Mayberg did entertain questions and answers from the Workgroup members.

Questions and Answers

What should an integrated plan look like (referring to Dr. Pating's comments)?

Our *system* should work well – fitting programs into the local programs. How do we build on to existing programs with new ways of doing old ideas, augmenting what works; merging other items:

Veteran's update

- ✓ Cheryl Trenwith talked about a case regarding Penal Code 1170.9 [which provides for special procedures in the case of veterans convicted of and sentenced to incarceration for crimes related to substance use, post-traumatic stress disorder, or psychological problems “stemming from service in a combat theater”] and veterans in Placer County. This code and others are not well known to DMH, but they will look into its use, since more services are being provided to veterans.

Other DMH updates

- ✓ SAMHSA grant submitted—proposed policy academy and San Diego pilot.
- ✓ SAMHSA Block Grant monies left from last fiscal year—DMH will provide funding to CMHDA, CIMH, & ADPI for Technical Assistance Center. CADPAAC is also looking into funding support for the center.

Subcommittee Items: Reports, Updated Action Plans, Revised Charters

Cheryl Trenwith, Co-Chair, COJAC Workgroup, provided suggested changes to the subcommittee structure. These are just ideas.

The COJAC Workgroup members **agreed** to the replacement of the Licensing & Certification Subcommittee with a new subcommittee, Adolescent/Youth.

What does the SAP look like for revised committees? How would they reconvene and add new membership?

Suggested revised committee structure –

- 1) Partnership (Co-Chairs, Sandra Naylor Goodwin and Victor Kogler)
Update completed for SAP with July 31, 2008, priorities from Department Directors and other groups
- 2) Funding and Regulation (Chair, Mary Hale)
Focus: Identify regulations that are barriers to co-occurring disorders service integration
Cheryl Trenwith will provide more clarification and review with the committee

3) Screening and Treatment Standards (Chair, Vivian Brown)

Focus:

- a. Standards of Care
- b. Expand the implementation of the COJAC Screening Tool
- c. Assessment
- d. Treatment
- e. DDCAT pilots

4) Adolescent (**NEW**) (Elizabeth Stanley-Salazar had agreed at the July meeting to chair.)

5) Housing (Chair, Carol Wilkins)

Other ideas: Criminal justice subcommittee

Action Item for subcommittees and ADP

Starting to-date and through March 2009 the subcommittees will update their SAPs as needed and bring them back to the COJAC Workgroup. The Partnership Subcommittee has completed their updates. The ADP support staff will create an archive for SAP action items which have been completed or which have been initiated but are ongoing or continuous. These items may then be removed from the updated SAPs.

Process for updates:

- ✓ Use the priorities and recommendations from all appropriate groups as an analysis lens, except funding sources should not drive policy;
- ✓ Use these “lenses” to fine-tune SAP actions, outcomes, and benchmarks after selection of policy issues and necessary service improvements.

The appropriate groups (for consideration of their priorities and recommendations) are:

- ✓ Directors’ priorities
- ✓ Little Hoover COD recommendations
- ✓ MHSOAC COD Workgroup recommendation
- ✓ CADPAAC COD Committee priorities
- ✓ Legislative reports—Assembly Member Jim Beall

The new CiMH/ADPI TA Center can train on and disseminate some of the products coming out of the COJAC Workgroup.

Partnership Subcommittee Report

Co-chair, Sandra Naylor Goodwin, provided the Partnership Subcommittee report. She spoke about the subcommittee’s process and subsequent updates to the SAP Priority One, which incorporates the Directors’ priorities and the various partners’ recommendations.

Action Items

Marvin Southard moved for the early adoption of a partnership website (CiMH &ADPI) developed by the CiMH/ADPI TA Center.

The Partnership SAP will use an asterisk to spell out the Department Directors priority populations within the SAP. The asterisk should also state that these are their priorities as outlined in the minutes from the July 31, 2008 meeting.

Under 1.2.1 – The Workgroup suggested forums that the subcommittee could begin to track to make sure COD is a part of their processes:

- 1) San Francisco--Blue Ribbon Commission, on county collaboration
- 2) CalSWEC, which needs an AOD representative as they develop curricula for social workers

This subcommittee has completed its SAP update for Priority One.

Housing Subcommittee Report

Carol Wilkins provided a document – a report, *A Dollar and Sense Strategy to Reducing Frequent Use of Hospital Services* – that supported Dr. Southard's report regarding frequent users of emergency use in LA. Access the report at www.frequenthealthusers.org. Both she and Dr. Southard agreed that a FSP with intense engagement and relationship services are needed for this population.

On the agenda item, **Decision on approval of Compendium of Housing Models**, Carol Wilkins provided a description of each item listed in the Housing Models Compendium.

Action Items

The Housing Subcommittee will work to amend the language for the SLE models. The support staff at ADP will circulate the changes for approval from the COJAC Workgroup and then post to website after approval. If the Compendium cannot be posted on the COJAC website, it can be posted on the new proposed partnership website.

The amended language should clearly state that Sober Living Environments (SLE) have issues of consistency. There is an absence of quality standards and the potential for abuse. Also using the four quadrant model to describe the appropriate populations for the SLE housing model may not be good. SLEs can remain a potential choice if proper services are in place and utilized.

There was also a comment that these models are focused on adults, 18 years and older.

The Housing Subcommittee will submit an updated SAP to the COJAC Workgroup.

Additional Housing Information:

SAMHSA has not yet released the Supported Housing Toolkit.

Concerning veterans as a priority or focus population, Carol Wilkins mentioned a couple of opportunities for VA connections to get services and housing assistance for veterans with co-occurring disorders. Particularly in the current fiscal environment, it seems important for counties and the state to leverage these federal resources.

The VA has a designated specialist in each region of the country for incarcerated veterans' re-entry. (CA is mostly covered by VISN 21 and 22, and Jim McGuire, the national lead for the program is based in LA.) This is a link to the web page, which contains information about the program, and a link to contact information: <http://www1.va.gov/homeless/page.cfm?pg=38>

HUD and the VA are also administering 10,000 (soon to be 20,000) new housing vouchers in California linked to VA case management services for homeless veterans, through a program called VASH. (This is a major expansion of a program that had operated at a much smaller scale 20 years ago.) There is a lot of information about VASH on this HUD website, including links to a document that shows the number of vouchers available in each part of the country and contact information for local VA and housing authority staff who are managing the implementation, and links to PowerPoint presentations that describe the program: <http://www.hud.gov/offices/pih/programs/hcv/vash/> .

Finalizing State Action Plan

- 1) *All proposed committee updates of the State Action Plans are due before the March 2009 meeting with the Department Directors*
- 2) Agenda Item for the January 7, 2009 meeting
 - a) Review the current membership roster and consider including representatives from
 - i) Child welfare and juvenile justice
 - ii) Youth advocacy

COJAC 2009 Calendar

Please put these dates in your calendars, as this is a **“Save the Date”** notice for 2009 COJAC meetings.

Jan. 7, 2009 (So Cal) (Either Orange County or Cal Endowment Offices in LA)

March 4, 2009 (Director's Meeting at CiMH)

May 6, 2009 (So Cal)

July 22, 2009 (Director's Meeting at CiMH)

Sept. 30, 2009 (So Cal)

Nov. 4, 2009 (Nor Cal to be scheduled at CiMH)